

STATE OF WISCONSIN



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do recognize that Wisconsin promotes recovery, as a process for individuals with mental illness and their families, and continues to promote recovery in its values, its mission, and its policies for delivering mental health services; and;

WHEREAS, mental health is essential for the growth, well-being, and vitality for citizens of all ages from children to adults to the elderly, their families, businesses, schools, and communities; it's a part of all of our lives; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that one in five families in Wisconsin is affected by mental illness in a given year regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, persons with mental illness, who receive appropriate treatment, medication, peer support, along with support of family, friends, co-workers, teachers, neighbors, faith community members, and all others experience recovery; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness, which includes self-stigma and its impact, many individuals of all ages do not seek help due to a lack of awareness, information, or understanding that mental illnesses are real, common, treatable and recovery is possible; and

WHEREAS, individuals who need screening, assessment, and referral for treatment services, may not seek help, due to a lack of health insurance coverage or a lack of parity for mental health services to receive adequate coverage; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's state health plan entitled *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*, identified mental health and mental disorders as one of the 11 health priorities, and collectively mental disorders make mental illness more common than cancer, lung, and heart disease combined; and

WHEREAS, the public mental health system is dedicated to the promotion of mental health and self-determination, prevention and early intervention, the reduction of suicide, improved treatment outcomes and recovery in Wisconsin;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM DOYLE, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim **May, 2004**

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

In the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance to all citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twenty-first day of April in the year two thousand four.

A handwritten signature of Jim Doyle in black ink.

JIM DOYLE

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State